

# **Chain and Sling Safety Tips**

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**Discussion Date:** 

### **TOPIC: Chain and Sling Safety Tips**

#### **General** info

Chains, slings and hooks are used to connect the lifting device (crane, hoist or forklift) and the load itself. A substandard or faulty chain or sling can injure or kill a person instantly. It is critical that chains and slings conform to specifications at all times.

## **Inspection Checkpoints and Safety Tips**

- ☑ NEVER stand directly underneath a load You cannot always trust that the sling or chain will support the load.
- ✓ Never modify or improperly use chains, slings or hooks; use them only for their intended purpose.
- ☑ Keep a 20 foot distance from the load if using a tag line.
- ☑ Always fasten the sling or chain to a rigid, fixed point on the load. In some cases, temporary eye-hooks may be fastened to the load.
- ☑ While hoisting and carrying the load, always try to ensure it is centered. This will help minimize an awkward center of gravity or shift of the load which could increase strain on the chain or sling.
- Always ensure hooks have a clasp to avoid inadvertent slipping of the hook.
- ☑ Inspect the condition of the chains and slings for link damage, cracking, separation, fraying, etc. Some slings are designed so that any exposed red material means the sling should be replaced.
- Understand the rated load for the chain, sling or hook. Hooks are usually stamped accordingly. If you cannot read the rated load tag on a sling, take the sling out of service.
- ☑ Make sure there is a routine inspection checklist or preventive maintenance program established for the chains and slings in your work area.

#### **Questions to Generate Discussion:**

- What are the maximum loads carried by slings and chains in your work area?
  Are workers taught safe practices, and are those practices used?
- What are the main reasons chains, slings and hooks get damaged in your work area? What can be done to reduce these problems?

Employee Participants:
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